



Safety Notice

2023.01- Diverter Valve Failure

PURPOSE

This Safety Notice highlights a potential safety issue with respect to inspection and maintenance of valve vents (also known as tell-tales).

BACKGROUND OF INCIDENT

A vent may be provided as a means of valve overpressure protection. Plugging of a valve vent can lead to an undetected accumulation of pressure within the valve, potentially leading to valve failure.

In October 2022, the Operator of a platform in the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area reported a high potential near miss whereby a valve blew apart while three workers were conducting pressure testing. The valve handle and gearbox cap travelled at a high velocity due to accumulated pressure and made contact with a platform structure some distance away. It was determined through the Operator's investigation that the valve vent was plugged and therefore unable to release the pressure that had accumulated within the valve body during pressure testing. Fortunately no one within the area was injured. https://atlanticcanadaoffshore.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Safety_Alert_Diverter-Valve-Incident.pdf

Every Operator and Employer must ensure that all equipment, machines, devices and materials provided for use at a workplace, including any part of or accessory, are properly maintained and are safe for their intended use. In addition, as per the *OHS Regulations*, if any of the equipment, machinery or devices used at a workplace, including any of its accessories, is subject to degradation over time that could affect its safety, then a thorough safety inspection is to be carried out at least once per year.

LEGISLATION

- *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* (Section 205.013(g); 205.019(1)(m)) <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-7.5.pdf>
- *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* (Section 87(1)(e)(ii)(c)) <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/SOR-2021-247.pdf>

OTHER REFERENCES

- *American Petroleum Institute 6D, Specification for Valves*
- *Guidelines for the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* <https://www.cnlopb.ca/wp-content/uploads/guidelines/OHSguideline2022.pdf>

RECOMMENDED ACTION

To ensure compliance, Operators, Employers, Suppliers and Providers of Service should review and ensure their practices regarding inspection and maintenance of all valve vents and equipment safety features are in compliance with the regulations and referenced standards so that such safety equipment and related features function as intended.

This Safety Notice and the associated CAPP Safety Alert shall be posted onboard installations which are operating under an authorization issued by the C-NLOPB in a prominent place accessible to every employee at the workplace.

Questions regarding this Safety Notice may be directed to a C-NLOPB Safety Officer at the address shown below.

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